talk of foreign investment, it is welcome to the extent that it is utilised for the purpose of infrastructural industries like power, steel, and such other industries. But how can you allow multinationals even in the case of consumer goods like soft drinks? How can you allow multinationals like Pepsi Cola and Coca Cola? If you do that, what will happen to our own industries? How can our industries compete in such a situation? Our small-scale industries will be hard-hit, if such industries are allowed.

As regards the service sector like insurance and banking, which we have nationalised, they are subject to the discipline of the Reserve Bank of India. Are we going to give complete freedom to the foreign banks to open branches here and function as they like? These are the questions which I pose to the Government. I think, immediate corrective action should be taken. These banks should be subject to the same discipline of the Reserve Bank of India, as is the case with our banks.

I associate myself with this Special Mention made by Shri Yashwant Sinha. It is a very good one. When I read it, I was also worried. When I came here, I saw this item. I myself thinking of giving notice of a Special Mention, on this subject, tomorrow.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, श्री यशवंत सिन्हा जी ने जो स्पेशल मेंशन किया है, मैं उससे अपने को एसोसिएट करता हूं और पूर्णतया उसका समर्थन करता हूं। मैं उन्हें धन्यवाद देता हूं और उससे भी ज्यादा धन्यवाद देता हूं जगेश देसाई जी को, जो उस पक्ष के हैं और उन्होंने इस दर्द को समझा है और इसलिए इसके खिलाफ प्रतिवाद किया है। वैसे एक दिक्कत जरूर है कि जब कोई प्रेम शुरू करता है तो कहां तक वह प्रेम जाएगा, यह कहना बड़ा कठिन है।

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश) : अपना तजुर्बा बताइए जरा।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : आपका कोई कम है क्या... (व्यवधान) तो हम सरकार को इस बात की चेतावनी देना चाहते हैं। वह तो जिस ढंग से आएंगे, वे तो हम लोगों की सारी चीज को हड़पकर खा जाएंगे। जो प्राइवेट बैंक, फॉरेन बैंक आ रहे हैं उन पर कोई भी जिम्मेदारी नहीं है और जो एटी पावर्टी स्कीम्स हैं गवर्नमेंट की, वे उनको नहीं मानेंगे। तो आप वास्तव में उनको फैवरेबल पोजीशन में लाना चाहते हैं। सरकार कहती है कि उनको कम देंगे लेकिन देते हैं ज्यादा। यह अत्यंत खतरनाक दिशा में सरकार जा रही है। इसलिए मैं भी इसका सख्त प्रतिवाद करता हूं।

Devastating Fire in Nagarahole Forest in Karnataka

SHRI K. G. MAHESWARAPPA (Karnataka): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, with a very heavy heart, I am raising this issue. The whole House will be shocked to hear that a devastating fire has destroyed nearly 20,000 acres of the world-famous forest. We are shocked to read the news that on the 15th of this month, the world-famous Nagarahole forest, which is a National Park, was burnt to ashes. More than 20,000 acres of the foerst — this is the latest figure I got: earlier, I mentioned it as 3,000 acres were destroyed by fire caused by angry miscreants.

Sir, thousands of birds and animals are feared to have been burnt. Offices and quarters of the forest officials have been destroyed. Forest officials have been severely assaulted by the angry crowd. The forest is, even now, burning. The reason was, a dead body was found in the forest, with bullet injuries. The angery crowd thought that a forest officer had killed that boy. This was the reason, and the enraged crowd caused this devastation.

The District Police Officer as well as the Deputy Commissioner of Coorg District were helpless spectators and they failed in their duty to protect the forest officials and forest property. The terror-striken forest officials have

[Shri K. G. Maheswarappa]

fied away from the scene. Now, the poachers have a field day. They are free to exploit the situation. The looters and other criminals are engaged in looting whatever remaining there in the forest. The State Government appears to have not taken any measure in this regard. This is a national park which is required to be protected. On the day when the forest was burning, the Chief Minister of Karnataka was celebrating the 25th year of his legislature membership in his home town Soraba with all pomp and luxury. He was given a golden 'kreeta' and Rs. 26 lakhs...

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): What a good thing you spoke. It was something for which we also became concerned but you have added politics and spoiled the whole thing.

SHRI K. G. MAHESHWARAPPA: Yesterday, nearly for about half an hour the Bihar Chief Minister was attacked. In that attack one of your supporters, a leader of the Congress, said that there are two great Chief Ministers, one, Laloo Prasad Yadav and the other, Bangarappa. This is what the Congress leader has said. Have a look at it. I am just mentioning. You are aware that when these disturbances took place in Bangalore when houses were burning and shops were looted, the Chief Minister was participating in a music festival. So, it is only incidentally that I am mentioning this. Yesterday one of the hon. Members from the other side spoke for half an hour and I am not trying to....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH): You make your point.

SHRI K. G. MAHESHWARAPPA: The Chief Minister was celebrating the 25th year of his legislature membership in his home town Soraba with all pomp and luxury. The Central Government should immediately take steps to protect whatever is remaining in the forest. Action should be taken against district police and revenue authorities in not giving adequate protection to the forest officials and also the forest property. Enquiry Committee may be constituted to go into this dastardly occurrence.

Need to provide housing facilities to the SC|STs, footpath dwellers and other weaker sections

SHRI J. S. RAJU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I rise to impress upon the Government through you, the need to provide dwelling units to SC|ST people and to those belonging to weaker sections of the society.

After 45 years of independence it is shocking and painful to see how poor people live in most hygenic conditions, particularly in rural areas. As one, coming from rural India, I know the squalor in which he lives. For the labour they put in, for the prosperity of the country for a cheap wage, all that they get in their life is indescribable misery and diseases, because of living in squalid conditions.

I wish to point out how badly the Government has failed, despite the number of schemes formulated to provide housing facility to SC|STs and the poor. Social housing programme was launched under 20-point programme, and a quota was fixed for SC|STs, but regretably, very little reached the needy. Provisions were also made under Nehru Rozgar Yojana and Night Shelter Scheme, for providing housing facilities to the urban poor and footpath dwellers. Yet, nothing noticeable has happened. It is pathetic to see how footpath dwellers, even in the national capital, exist.

Indira Awas Yojana is said to be in operation to provide free housing facility to SC|STs and freed bonded labourers in rural areas. Under this